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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS.

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BOOK NOTICES.

European Travellers in India during the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. By Edward Farley Oaten. xv and 274 pp., Appendixes and Index. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., London, 1909. 3s. 6d.

The book briefly considers the work of about 100 travellers who visited India in the three centuries named. The author, properly enough, makes no account of a considerable number of other European visitors in that period of whom it may be remarked, as Sir George Birdwood said of Sir John Mandeville: "He is not to be trusted even when telling the truth." Mr. Oaten's method is to summarize the travels of each man whose journeys were important and then to give some idea of what he added, whether much or little, to existing geographical knowledge, and of the evidence he afforded, if any, "with respect to Indian social institutions and the nature and influence of Indian Governments." The testimony of these travellers related to the last three centuries of the mediæval period of Indian history. Mr. Oaten's purpose is a useful one. He does not attempt to pass upon the actual value of all this testimony, though he deals with the work of each traveller in a critical spirit. He found a good many arid spaces in the accumulation of evidence, and the "oases of vital fact were sometimes hard to find." The object of the book is to point out the parts of the narratives that are worth holding fast. This is all the more desirable because no scientific analysis and classification of the materials for Indian history have heretofore been made. The whole ground cannot be covered in so small a book, but, as far as he has gone, Mr. Oaten has done his work well.

Der Eid, seine Entstehung und Beziehung zu Glaube und Brauch der Naturvölker. Eine ethnologische Studie von Dr. Richard Lasch. 147 pp. including Bibliography. Strecker & Schröder, Stuttgart, 1908. M. 5.

The book is No. 5 of the series "Studien und Forschungen zur Menschen- und Völkerkunde" edited by Dr. Georg Buschan. It is a careful study of the oath in its origin, its relation to religious faiths and its employment among primitive peoples. The text has 786 references to authorities and the bibliography is very large.

Im Lande des Erdbebens vom Vesuv zum Aetna. Von Dr. Albert Zacher. 316 pp. Julius Hoffmann Verlag in Stuttgart, 1909. M. 3.

Dr. Zacher is the correspondent in Italy of one of the leading German newspapers and is famous in his line of work. He has a vivid, trenchant style, can describe things just as he sees them, and, best of all, his literary gift is not per-